

Madam Speaker, today both American families and businesses are struggling to make ends meet during these tough economic times. Like President Obama, I am optimistic that America can and will build the cars of the future.

When GM and Chrysler are both asking for additional taxpayer dollars, it is only common sense they explore every option to tackle this crisis. Both companies must be pressed to once again lead the world in car manufacturing. Chrysler's best option is to make an alliance with an outside company like Fiat, to make a successful product that can profit and sustain itself for the future. I am optimistic about what a more advanced engine could do for the company and its workers.

The men and women at the Fenton plant in Missouri helped Chrysler survive in the early eighties, and I fully expect them to be an integral part of Chrysler's future survival. It is essential that Chrysler continue at least the same amount of current manufacturing in the U.S. today, and Fiat is committed to do that, and that they continue to grow production in the U.S. as the auto industry rebounds. My constituents, who have helped make the Fenton plant the state-of-the-art facility it is today, rightfully expect their tax-funded assistance to create American jobs.

The auto industry must make tough choices to keep their loyal and hardworking workforce employed and, once again, become the world's leader. And Congress must also make the difficult choices to get out of this economic and fiscal crisis and move America in a new direction.